

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00814 112252Z

70

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

STR-08 L-03 H-03 SAM-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 INT-08

SS-20 NSC-10 IO-14 DRC-01 /227 W

----- 127353

R 112145Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2518

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, AS

SUBJ: GOA SPEAKS ON CONAKRY MEETING ON

BUXITE

REF: A) CANBERRA 0772

B) CANBERRA 0589

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PAGE 02 CANBER 00814 112252Z

C) CANBERRA 5894 NOTAL

1. BRIAN HILL, FIRST ASST. SECRETARY, COMMODITY POLICY, DEPT. OVERSEAS TRADE, CALLED IN EMBASSY OFFICER FEB. 11 TO DISCUSS CONAKRY MEETING AND PUBLIC STATEMENT ISSUED LATE FEB. 8 BY OVERSEAS TRADE MINISTER CAIRNS. THIS WAS FIRST TIME GOA OFFICIAL HAS VOLUNTEERED TO DISCUSS AUSTRALIA'S POSITION ON BAUXITE GROUPING. CANADIANS, JAPANESE AND PERHAPS OTHER MISSIONS ALSO BEING CALLED IN.

2. HILL'S BRIEF PRESENTATION, LIKE CAIRNS' STATEMENT, WAS SHORT ON SUBSTANCE. BOTH JUSTIFIED GOA PARTICIPATION IN TERMS OF SUPPORTING "INCREASED COOPERATION" AMONG EXPORTERS OF BAUXITE, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF IMPORTERS. HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONS DID ELICIT SOME FURTHER INFORMATION FROM HILL. OFFICIALS WILL MEET ON FEB. 28 TO PREPARE WAY FOR MINISTERIAL MEETING "WITHIN A WEEK". FOREIGN MINISTER WILLESEE WILL ATTEND VICE CAIRNS, WHO ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO GO BUT HAD TO CHANGE PLANS FOR "PERSONAL REASONS." HILL, WHO ATTENDED BELGRADE MEETING, AND OFFICIALS DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OF MINERALS AND ENERGY, WILL ALSO ATTEND.

3. HILL ENVISAGES NO DIFFICULTIES IN OFFICIALS IRONING OUT ANY DISAGREEMENTS ON DRAFT AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION (IGBA) IN TIME FOR MINISTERS TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITHIN WEEK. HOWEVER, HE REFUSED TO SAY WHETHER DRAFT PROVIDES FOR BUFFER STOCK OR OTHER MECHANISM TO INFLUENCE SUPPLIES AND PRICES. HE DID CONCEDE THAT IGBA WILL HAVE A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT (LOCATION STILL UNCERTAIN) BUT THAT DRAFT AGREEMENT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR CONSUMER COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN IGBA. HILL SAID NO FRICTION ON IGBA EXISTS BETWEEN CAIRNS AND MINERALS AND ENERGY MINISTER CONNOR, MAINTAINING IT ESTABLISHED PRACTICE FOR TRADE MINISTER TO HANDLE ALL INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON MINERALS TRADE. MCGOLDRICK, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, REPORTING TO HILL, TOOK OCCASION TO PROVIDE "UNOFFICIALLY" COPY OF PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S STATEMENT IN TOKYO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CANBER 00814 112252Z

(REF C) LAST OCTOBER STRESSING THAT GOA WILL NOT SEEK TO EXPLOIT DEPENDENCE OF OTHER COUNTRIES ON AUSTRALIAN RESOURCES.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: HILL PROVIDED LITTLE NEW INFORMATION BUT DID SIGNAL GOA'S CONCERN THAT US AND OTHER IMPORTERS NOT REACT NEGATIVELY TO IGBA CONCEPT. OTHER SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT CONNOR, NORMALLY RESENTFUL OF ANY IN-

CURSIONS BY OTHER MINISTERS INTO "RESOURCES DIPLOMACY",
HAS CLASHED WITH CAIRNS, WHO STRONGLY SUPPORTS GOA
ROLE IN IGBA. DESPITE HIS SINCERITY AND HONESTY, HILL
WAS NOT WHOLLY CONVINCING THAT NO CAIRNS-CONNOR FRICTION
EXISTS ON THIS MATTER OR THAT CAIRNS WILLINGLY AGREED
THAT WILLESEE SHOULD HEAD GOA DELEGATION VICE HIMSELF.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BAUXITE, MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CANBER00814
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740242/aaaabnrx.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) CANBERRA 0772
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOA SPEAKS ON CONAKRY MEETING ON BUXITE
TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005